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Lewis W. Scanland

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LEWIS W. SCANLAND.

APRIL 20, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STRUBLE, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 3043.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3043) for the relief of Lewis W. Scanland, submit the following report :

It appears that petitioner enlisted April 18, 1832, for service in the Black Hawk war; that he served about thirty-eight days, and was honorably discharged with his comrades May 25, 1832. On March 14, 1884, petitioner filed his application for pension, alleging the incurrence of chronic diarrhea during the service above mentioned.

There is no record of his disability or treatment therefor, nor does claimant allege to have been treated while in the service. There is no mention of his disability at discharge.

Claim was rejected on ground of no record, short service, and claimant's inability to furnish satisfactory evidence to connect the alleged disability with his military service. To substantiate claimant's testimony in regard to alleged disability, we have the affidavit of his comrade, S. W. Gaskell, who has known claimant since he was ten years old; enlisted with him, served and been discharged with him; knew that he was attacked with chronic diarrhea while in the aforesaid service; that he suffered severely with it after discharge and upon the route home, and that he suffered with it continually up to 1872, when affiant moved from the vicinity of claimant. Said Gaskell is the only member of his company whom claimant knows to be now living.

We also find the evidence of Col. John Thomas, of Bellevue, Ill., who says that from the best of his remembrance claimant was attacked with diarrhea while in said service, and that a great many in that service were similarly attacked. Colonel Thomas also testifies to his belief in the truthfulness and uprightness of claimant.

Claimant testifies that the physician who treated him immediately upon his return home died many years ago. Other medical treatment of claimant is testified to by the following physicians: Henry L. Strong, who was his family doctor for ten years after September 9, 1848, and he knows him to have been troubled with chronic weakness of bowels both before and after September, 1848. Samuel Willard, who, for a few years about 1856, was claimant's family doctor, testifies:

Claimant was subject to chronic diarrhea. He had several severe attacks, in which I was obliged to be up all night with him.

J. L. R. Wadsworth, who treated claimant in 1871 and 1872, testifies that he was subject to chronic diarrhea.

Also, affidavit of True Blake, who was a near neighbor of claimant from 1872 to 1883, and knew that he was subject to chronic diarrhea.

James Purviance also makes affidavit that he has known claimant for sixty years; was his neighbor before and after his service in Black Hawk war, and from the time of his discharge up to 1872, when claimant moved from his vicinity, it was common report that he was suffering from chronic diarrhea.

Claimant is unable to produce evidence of any one except Gaskell and Purveyance as to his condition at discharge, as all his old neighbors are dead or moved to parts unknown.

We recommend the passage of the bill, with the following amendments: Strike out the word "Burbank's," in the sixth line, and insert "John Thomas's"; also insert after "regiment," in the sixth line, the words "Captain Barnsback's company."